

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION IO-06

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 04753

LIMDIS

FOR IO AND HA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: APER, AORG, UNHCR
SUBJECT: UNHCR DEPUTY POST

REF: A. STATE 77854; B. STATE 79710

1. IN PRIVATE SESSION, I DELIVERED TEXT OF SECRETARY'S LETTER TO HARTLING AFTERNOON OF MARCH 29, EMPLOYING ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS SET FORTH IN PARA 3, REF A. (COINCIDENTALLY, MY VISIT FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY THAT OF AMBASSADOR KENNETH DADZIE, WHOM I ENCOUNTERED EXITING IN HIGH COMMISSIONER'S WAITING ROOM. HOPEFULLY THIS SEQUENCE MAY HAVE POINTED UP OUR ARGUMENTS AS TO ADVISABILITY OF APPOINTING ANOTHER THIRD WORLD REP TO DEPUTY POST.)

2. FORTUITOUSLY ALSO, I WAS ABLE ON THIS OCCASION TO PRESENT TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER THE PLEDGE LETTER FOR \$300,000 FOR UNHCR PROGRAMS IN KENYA AND SUDAN (STATE 78398), WHICH HELPED UNDERScore POINT CONCERNING IMPORTANCE OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR UNHCR.

3. HARTLING WAS NON-COMMITTAL IN REACTING TO MY APPROACH. HE DID OBSERVE, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE THE UNITED STATES, CONFIDENTIAL

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A NATION OF 220 MILLION PEOPLE PROVIDED ONE-THIRD OF THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR UNHCR, TWENTY PERCENT CAME FROM THE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES, WITH A POPULATION OF ONLY 16 MILLION PEOPLE. HE ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAY THAT HE WAS ATTEMPTING TO GENERATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR UNHCR PROGRAMS FROM THE SOVIET UNION AND CHINA, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE PROGRAMS WITHIN AFRICA. HOWEVER HE REPORTED THAT THE

SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S REACTION TO HIS INITIAL GAMBIT WAS A COMMENT THAT ALL THE PROBLEMS CREATING REFUGEE SITUATIONS IN AFRICA WERE ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE SINS OF THE CAPITALIST WORLD.

4. POUCHED ORIGINAL OF SECRETARY'S LETTER TO HARTLING HAD NOT ARRIVED HERE AS OF EVENING MARCH 29. WE HAVE ALSO NOT RECEIVED NAMES OF TWO CANDIDATES FOR DEPUTY POST MENTIONED IN PARA 3 OF SECRETARY'S LETTER, BUT HOPE THEY WILL BE IN HAND VERY SHORTLY, SINCE WE HAVE FEELING THAT HARTLING WILL MOVE AHEAD SMARTLY IN MAKING ADJUSTMENTS TO HIS STAFF AS HE SEES NECESSARY (ONE HIGH-LEVEL UNHCR OFFICIAL (TERRILLON), FOR INSTANCE, HAS JUST BEEN NOTIFIED OF HIS UNREQUESTED AND UNWANTED TRANSFER FROM HEADQUARTERS TO CANADA THIS SUMMER. WE UNDERSTAND THAT HE WILL BE REPLACED HERE BY A CANADIAN CIVIL SERVANT AT THE D-1 LEVEL). I THEREFORE FEEL THAT WE SHOULD NOT LET ANY GRASS GROW UNDER OUR FEET ON THIS SCORE.

5. IN THIS CONNECTION, AND IN ADDITION TO SUBMITTING THE TWO NAMES PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT, I WONDER WHETHER IT MIGHT NOT BE ADVISABLE TO INDICATE TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OUR HIGH REGARD FOR HIS PRESENT DEPUTY, CHARLES MACE. MACE HAS BEEN MOST COOPERATIVE AND FORTHCOMING IN HIS DEALINGS WITH THIS MISSION, AND HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY HELPFUL, EVEN AT SOME EXPENSE TO HIMSELF, IN ASSISTING US TO ATTAIN OBJECTIVES WHICH WE CONSIDER IN U.S. INTERESTS. WHILE HARTLING HAS BEEN TOTALLY DISCREET WITH US ON THIS POINT, CONFIDENTIAL

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POSSIBILITY CANNOT BE EXCLUDED THAT HE MAY BE CONSIDERING AMONG HIS OPTIONS RETAINING MACE IN DEPUTY POSITION. THIS MIGHT BE ATTRACTIVE TO HIM ON BASIS THAT RETENTION OF PRESENT DEPUTY WOULD BE LESS OBTRUSIVE AND EASIER TO JUSTIFY TO ASPIRING THIRD WORLD AND OTHER COUNTRIES, THAN REPLACING INCUMBENT WITH NEW AMERICAN CANDIDATE. IF THIS PREMISE CORRECT, OUR SILENCE WITH REGARD TO MACE COULD BE GIVEN NEGATIVE INTERPRETATION, THEREBY INDUCING HARTLING TO DROP ONE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING AMERICAN IN DEPUTY POST. I WOULD THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT WEIGH DESIRABILITY OF INDICATING OUR SATISFACTION WITH MACE'S PERFORMANCE AT THE SAME TIME WE ADVANCE THE NAMES OF TWO OTHER AMERICAN CANDIDATES FOR HIS CONSIDERATION.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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